

Henry's Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area 2003 Final Report

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Introduction

The Henry's Fork Weed Management Area (HFCWMA) is a cooperative effort to manage, contain, reduce and eradicate noxious weeds in all of Fremont County Idaho plus the southwestern portion of Yellowstone National Park and a portion of Teton County Wyoming that lies within the Ashton Ranger District.

The HFCWMA policy uses integrated weed management to control and eradicate noxious weeds, involving public education to help in the early detection and the control of noxious weeds. It also uses both biological and chemical methods of control of noxious weeds already in the area.

The HFCWMA is 1.5 million acres that varies from desert in the southwestern to high alpine forest in the north. Only 25% of the HFWMA is in private ownership.

The major problem weeds in the HFCWMA are Leafy Spurge and Spotted Knapweed. Leafy Spurge is a deep-rooted perennial that is toxic to both humans and livestock. Spotted Knapweed is occurring along the highways and towns in the area. Major infestations are occurring in the arid desert to the higher elevations and it is increasing in the area.

The cooperators in HFCWMA are Fremont County, The Targhee National Forest, Yellowstone National Park, The Idaho Department of Lands, The Idaho Department of Fish and Game, The Idaho Department of Transportation, The Bureau of Land management, Teton County Wyoming, The National Resource and Conservation Service and several land owners.



Dalmatian Toadflax in the Sand Dunes

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

Leafy Spurge was controlled by spraying early with 2,4-D to prevent seed formation and later with Plateau in the fall. Plateau was labeled for use on pastureland and CRP which allowed us to spray pastureland and CRP and expand our use of this very effective herbicide.

Spotted Knapweed was sprayed early in May before bolting and late in the fall with Redeem and Curtail which controlled it very well.

Dalmatian Toadflax was sprayed in the fall and we received good results with Plateau.

Yellow Toadflax was sprayed with a mixture of Redeem and Escort or Telar with good results.

Diffuse Knapweed was controlled quite well with Redeem.

Dyers Woad was found at the landfill and along Highway 20 and was controlled with 2, 4-D and Escort.

Canadian, Bull, Musk, Plumless and Scotch Thistle were found in small patches throughout the county and were controlled with Redeem.

Field Bindweed was found throughout the county in small patches and was controlled with Roundup Pro during the summer and with 2, 4-D and Redeem in the fall.

Black Henbane was found in small patches and was controlled with 2, 4-D or Redeem.

Puncturevine was found in the dryer parts of the county and was controlled with 2, 4-D. Telar was used in a vacant lot to see if we could get several years of control.

Purple Loosestrife was not found in the CWMA this year.

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF TROUBLESOME WEEDS

Babysbreath was found in the county and was controlled as needed with 2,4-D.

Curlycup Gumweed was found along the roads and could be controlled with Escort.

Houndstongue is increasing in the area and was controlled with Escort.

Mayweed chamomile is spreading throughout the area and was also controlled with Escort.

St. Johnswort is spreading in the forest and we used Redeem and Escort mix to control it.

White Bryony was found throughout the lower part of the county and can be controlled with an application of Roundup into the root.



White Bryony east of St. Anthony.

The Fremont County Commission has added St. Johnswort, Houndstongue Mayweed chamomile and White bryony to its noxious weed list to help in controlling those weeds.



Rush Skeletonweed *Chondrilla juncea* L.

Rush Skeletonweed was found for the first time in the county east of St .Anthony in 2002. In 2003 we used a combination of Tordon and Redeem in an attempt to eradicate this weed. We will continue to monitor this site in the future.



Uphora cardi release site on Canadian Thistle in Harriman State Park.

Biological Control of Noxious Weeds

For Leafy Spurge control we planted ninety eight thousand *Apthona Nigriscutis* flea beetles in twenty two locations and planted six different colonies of six hundred *Apthona Lacterosa* in wet areas. Five boxes of one thousand *Apthona* mix was purchased and released at five places around the county. Hawkmoth caterpillars were found eating Leafy Spurge all over the HFCWMA.

For Spotted Knapweed control we started a new approach to control this weed. We used two different insects including:

- *Larinus minutis*, a seed head minor—fourteen sites—2,500 insects.
- *Cyclocleonus achates*, a root borer—eight sites—800 insects.

Agapeta Zoegona, was not used this year because we could not find any evidence of earlier plantings

For the thistles we released three thousand *Cassida Rubigosa*, (a defoliating beetle), in six different sites. Thirteen hundred *Uphora Cardi* (a gall fly) were released in five sites. Six hundred *Ceutorhynchus litura* (a stem and crown mining weevil) were released in two sites.

For Toadflax control one hundred and twenty five *Mecinus janthinus* (stem mining weevils) were released near the Cave Falls road in May.

Education and Public Involvement

The amount of \$500 from the Noxious Weed fund In Fremont County was given to the public awareness campaign that the governor's office is sponsoring to help pay for radio and TV commercials on noxious weeds that were aired in the area at the appropriate times.

Fremont County purchased two noxious Weed educational kits that were developed for teaching Junior High School students and gave them to the biology teachers at both North and South Fremont Junior High Schools. Fourteen hundred pamphlets that the GYCC Weed committee had printed were scattered around the area. Idaho Noxious Weed Books were placed in every road and bridge vehicle and I helped staff a booth at the Eastern Idaho State Fair in September.

Weed Mapping

The computer instructor at South Fremont High School is teaching a weed mapping course with two Geoexplorer III units and a Geoexplorer XM that we purchased with a grant from I. S. D. A. This year that teacher and two students mapped over 800 locations in Fremont County. They started mapping gravel pits in the lower parts of the county. Next year we are planning to move into the higher areas of the county in both efforts. Fremont County Weed Control purchased a Dell Axim Five handheld computer with a GPS antennae and Arcpad software to stay current with the rapidly changing technology in GPS mapping.

Goals For 2004

We plan to continue to educate the public on noxious weeds by presentations to various entities such as public service organizations, conservation organizations and canal companies.

We plan on mapping weeds in cooperation with South Fremont High School, BLM, IDFG and USFS. We will continue to eradicate new weeds as they are found and attempt to control and eliminate noxious weeds where possible with herbicides and the use of biological methods as well. We will apply for grants from ISDA and the Eastern Idaho Resource Advisory Council to help us in this effort.

Appendix # 1

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Appendix 2

Project summaries:

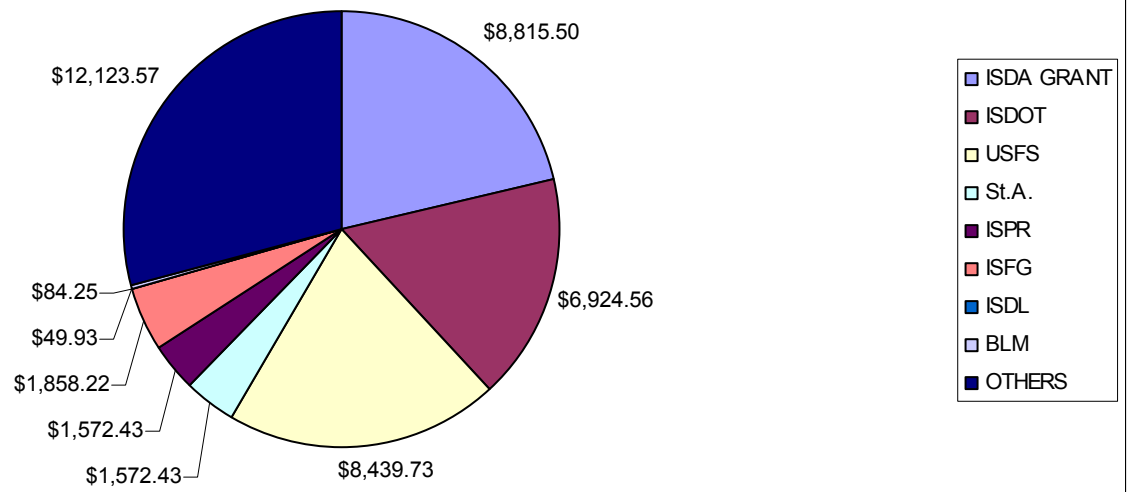
| Project name | Weed Species | Acres treated |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | | |
| Biological Releases | Thistles | 35 |
| | Spotted Knapweed | 110 |
| | Leafy Spurge | 216 |
| | Toadflaxes | 5 |
| | | |
| GPS Mapping | Standard list | 850 locations |
| | | |
| Three way cost shares | Spotted Knapweed | 167 |
| | Leafy Spurge | 3 |
| | | |
| Two way cost shares | Thistles | 91 |
| | Leafy Spurge | 22 |

Appendix 3

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HFCWMA

2003 TOTAL \$41,449.62

2003 HFCWMA Contributions



Appendix 4

The Henrys Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area Description:

The HFCWMA includes all the Land in Fremont County Idaho plus the south west portion of Yellowstone National Park that drains into the Henrys Fork, the Bechler Subdistrict) and that portion of Teton County Wyoming that lies within the Ashton District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The HFCWMA comprises 1.5 Million acres of which twenty five percent is in

private ownership. (See attached Map)

